

## **THE SEX ACT AND MARRIAGE**

Homer Hailey

God recognized the betrothal covenant as marriage, and not the sex act, as that which makes a couple husband and wife. This is evident from God's statement to Moses, "If there be a damsel that is a virgin betrothed unto a husband [note, she is a virgin], and a man find her in the city, and lie with her; then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city and ye shall stone them to death with stones; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbor's wife: so thou shalt put away the evil from the midst of thee" (Deut. 22:23-24). She was a virgin; she was betrothed; she was the man's wife to whom betrothed; clearly, it was the betrothal that made her the man's wife and not the sex act.

The same principle is indicated in the case of Joseph and Mary (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35). "When Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband," would have put her away, but an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife-" and Joseph, "took unto him his wife; and knew her not till she had brought forth a son" (to 18-25). Mary was betrothed to Joseph; she was his wife; he was her husband, before they had come together; and he knew her not until she had borne Jesus. Clearly, it was the betrothal and not the sex act that made them husband and wife. (THE NEW COVENANT, pg. 56)

### **"FORNICATION OR CONSUMMATION"**

**James W. Boyd**

Among the false doctrines being taught regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage, one of the more ludicrous is the idea that a man and woman are not married until there has been sexual intercourse between them. That intercourse is what makes them married according to this view.

Some are always seeking ways around what God teaches. Some have married and seek divorce on the grounds that the marriage was never consummated in sexual intercourse. What they do not understand is that sexual intercourse is a privilege **IN** marriage, and not what makes one married. Just be a bit logical, maybe for the first time. If marriage is not marriage until the sex act, what do you have going on? You have a man and woman going to bed with each other for the sex act who is not even married to each other. Folks, that's fornication, not consummation. They are married when the preacher says, "I pronounce you husband and wife."

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